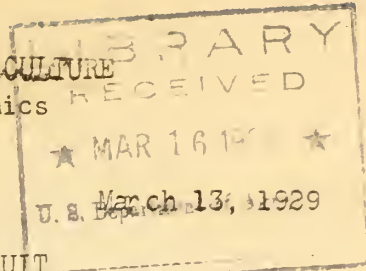


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FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

ORANGE INDUSTRY BEING DEVELOPED IN SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

The State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, has recently been making strenuous endeavors to promote the exports of its fruits, especially oranges and bananas, according to a report received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Consul C. R. Cameron at Sao Paulo. The climate of Sao Paulo is favorable for the production of many different fruits but bananas and citrus fruits are especially favored. Bananas do particularly well on the hot coastal plain, while citrus fruit thrives on the plateau where the temperature at times reaches the freezing point.

The development of the orange growing industry in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, points to increased competition for American oranges in foreign markets, particularly in Great Britain. The bulk of the American oranges moving to the British market is exported in the months June-November. During the four months, July-October, of this period, about the only competition which American oranges have had to meet in the past in that market was from oranges from South Africa. In the past two years, however, increasing quantities have also been imported during those months from Brazil. During 1928 the British imports of oranges from Brazil amounted to 9,850,000 pounds as against 1,344,000 pounds in 1927.

Oranges have the most promising future of all the fruits grown in the State of Sao Paulo, according to Consul Cameron. The number of orange trees in the State in 1928 was 1,235,000 from which 1,378,000 cases of 65 pounds each were produced. The area of the greatest promise for the production of oranges in the State is that of Limeira, which has 316,000 orange trees in bearing and about 1,000,000 trees which will come into bearing in about three years. It is estimated that within three years this district alone will produce 1,500,000 cases of oranges. Complete equipment for a small packing house has been purchased in the United States. This packing house is to be erected in Limeira in time to handle the orange harvest beginning this month (March).

Quality of Sao Paulo oranges

The leading varieties of oranges produced in the State of Sao Paulo are the Bahia Navel Orange and the Pera, or Pear Orange. The navel orange is smaller than the California orange of that type and is often discolored. The navel is the more important variety and ripens from March to August. The pear orange, so called because of its shape, is smaller than the Sao Paulo navel and does not yield as heavily. It is of considerable value for local consumption purposes because it is harvested from August to March,

when no navel oranges are available. In Sao Paulo oranges of all varieties are usually grafted on the stalk of a hardy native variety, known as the "Caipira". The Sao Paulo orange in general is somewhat seedy and fibrous, but sweet and of an agreeable flavor. It varies greatly in all of its qualities, however, and one of the principal problems of its culture is to produce fruit of a uniform size, color, and flavor, with the elimination of seeds and fiber.

Orange exports of Sao Paulo

While the orange exports of the State of Sao Paulo, practically all through the port of Santos, are still relatively small compared with the exports of bananas, the trade is growing and considerable development is expected in this direction as soon as the new trees come into bearing. In 1927 a total of 7,606,000 oranges was exported from the port of Santos as compared with 2,466,300 in 1926. On the basis of 150 oranges to a 65 pound case this would be equivalent to 50,708 cases in 1927 as compared with 16,442 cases in 1926. Most of these were shipped to Germany and England. Exports of bananas from Santos in 1927 amounted to 4,229,000 bunches as against 3,991,000 bunches in 1926, mostly to Argentina.

Packing legislation

The Government of the State of Sao Paulo on December 31, 1928, passed a law providing for the control of the grading and packing of all agricultural products exported from the State. While the law covers all farm products it is directed chiefly to fruit export, states Consul Cameron. Following is a summary translation of this law:

Article 1

The Executive Power is hereby authorized to organize through the Department of Agriculture the fiscalization of the preparation, packing, standard types, and classification, of agricultural products destined for exportation.

Article 2

For the execution of this Law, the Executive may institute the fiscalization of groves directing the destruction of decayed fruits so as to avoid the propagation of plagues and taking measures so that there may be obtained in such groves the greatest advantage from the culture of the orange and other national fruits, so as to perfect as much as possible their intrinsic and extrinsic qualities.

Article 3

The Executive Power is likewise authorized, for the execution of the present law, to enter into agreement:

- a) With the railway companies in order that the transport of fruit be made in suitable cars properly cleaned and in rapid journeys.
- b) With steamship companies in order that the exporters may not lack the space which they need in the cold storage chambers of their ships for the exportation of whatsoever quantity;
- c) With the Santos Docks Company for the purpose of having installed a dry air cold storage plant especially for the storage of fruits destined to exportation;
- d) With the Government of adjoining States in order that the products destined for consumption within the territory of this State, or for exportation through the port of Santos, be properly fiscalized in order to combat frauds, poor preparation and improper conditions of preparation, and packing for transportation;
- e) With the Federal Government so that through the Department of Agriculture there may be exercised in Santos the necessary fiscalization against poor quality or preparation, or improper packing of the products destined for exportation.

